

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000459

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing.

Implementation of the literacy and numeracy test

Question

What oversight has the Department had of the implementation of the literacy and numeracy test that has been mandated for students before they graduate from an education degree, being delivered by ACER?

- Were all graduating education students able to access this test?
- What kind of complaint mechanism and resolution process did the Department put in place for students who had trouble finding a suitable time and location to undertake the test?

Answer

The Department of Education and Training contracted the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) for three years (2016–2018) as the administrator for national implementation of the Literacy and Numeracy Test for Initial Teacher Education Students. The department has full policy oversight of the implementation of the test and ACER, as the test administrator, is responsible for all aspects of test delivery.

Four test windows were offered in 2016. This included an early priority test window in May – June 2016 for final year students ahead of national implementation on 1 July 2016.

There were no capacity or location constraints that precluded students from sitting the test. The demand for each test window varied, as students may sit the test at any point during their studies. The testing centre locations and the anticipated capacity requirements in 2016 were determined by ACER in consultation with the department and higher education providers. In addition to the physical testing centres, remote proctoring was offered 24 hours per day during each test window to ensure the test was available to all students wishing to undertake it.